

# Nature & You

News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • July/August 2016



## Paddling Missouri's River Masterpiece



**T**here is nothing quite as exquisite as paddling a Missouri stream. I close my eyes and relish the sun on my back as I paddle downstream. Catch, power, recovery. The rhythm is soothing, inviting me to dance on the water. Just me and my canoe, the wind and waves and my favorite rattled call of the belted kingfisher. The current is a spirited dance partner as it beckons me past cottonwoods and giant sycamores, past city and fields, below the horse's mane clouds in the forever blue of the sky and beneath the soaring bald eagle.

Yes, this is what dreams are made of. You may be surprised to learn that I am not on the Current, Jack's Fork or Eleven Point rivers in the Ozarks. Today, I answer the siren's call of the mighty Missouri River, a true natural masterpiece in our state.

Once upon a time, I envied those who

lived in the Ozarks who could launch their canoe into one of that region's clear-water scenic treasures. But I have learned a new truth. I fully discovered the Missouri River's magic during my debut as an MR 340 paddler in 2015. The MR 340 is a self-powered, 340-mile boat race across Missouri. Participants must paddle from Kansas City to St. Louis in less than 88 hours. This year's race (July 19–22) will be the 11th running of this competition.

It has been said that you cannot care for that in which you do not

know, and I believe this to be true. When we think of the Missouri River, if we think of it at all, we may think of the bridge we negotiate during rush hour or a dividing line between Kansas City and North Kansas City.

During the 2015 MR 340, I encountered a different river. I met and paddled with Lewis and Clark's legacy, their expedition being a foundation for the westward expansion of the United States. I navigated by a vast night sky with the Milky Way galaxy lighting my way. I gaped in wonder as the sunrise painted the early morning fog in hues of oranges, pinks, purples and blues. I could have been anywhere – Yellowstone National Park, Denali or the Grand Canyon – it would not have taken my breath away any more than the beauty and mystery that I met on this river journey.

Poetic? Yes! Reality? Yes! The Missouri

River is one of our most magnificent natural resources in our state and the entire nation.

The headwaters flow out of the mountains of Montana and then the Missouri meanders for 2,341 miles before entering the Mississippi River north of St. Louis. The river's watershed drains more than half a million square miles. This magnificent resource flows silently through our own backyard, beckoning exploration.

Exploration of the Missouri is easy in the Kansas City area. Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has boat ramps or has partnered with cities and counties to provide them on the river, which makes canoe or kayak access easier.

A good starting point is Platte Landing Park in Parkville. From the park's boat ramp to Kaw Point is an easy eight-mile float. Kaw Point is a 10-acre park in the Fairfax District. From here you can float four miles to the River Front Park, which has a boat ramp, or continue on to LaBenite Park, just east of the Missouri River M-291 Bridge in Sugar Creek.

The float from LaBenite Park to the Cooley Lake Access and Conservation Area is a great 11-mile day trip. Cooley Lake Access can be accessed off 210 Highway between Missouri City and Orrick. Don't forget to watch for the large bald eagle nest on the south side of the river as you paddle this section. To complete your Kansas City, Missouri River experience, add 4.3 miles to the river access near the Fort Osage Historic site.

Learn more about the floats and the conservation areas along the Missouri River in the MDC publication, *Paddler's Guide to Missouri*. For information about specific conservation areas, visit <http://on.mo.gov/1Ybx09Y>.

Join me in celebrating a great natural resource by participating in the Missouri River Sunset Float on Thursday, July 7, and the Missouri River Full Moon Float on Thursday, Aug. 18. For details, please see programs inside.

– Lisa LaCombe, Burr Oak Woods Nature Center Manager

# Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/280](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/280)



Located in Blue Springs, Missouri, one mile north of I-70 and one mile west of MO 7 on Park Road. Six trails, 1,071 wooded acres, two picnic areas, indoor wildlife viewing area, 3,000 gallon native fish and turtle aquarium, hands-on nature exhibits, gift shop, and sales of fishing and hunting permits.

## NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Tuesday–Friday: 7 AM–6 PM

Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

## AREA AND TRAILS:

Daily: 7 AM–6 PM

Daylight Saving Time: 7 AM–8 PM

Closed all state holidays.

## TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-228-3766 to sign up for a program requiring registration on or after the first business day of that month. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

## What's for Dinner?

Wednesdays & Saturdays • 3 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

Discover what's for dinner at Burr Oak Woods as the captive amphibians, fish and turtles enjoy their feast every Wednesday and Saturday. The snakes will be fed every other Friday (July 8 & 22 and Aug. 5 & 19).

## Missouri's Fantastic Fish

July 2 • Saturday • 1–2:30 PM

*No registration required* (all ages)



Did you know that there are more than 200 species of fish in Missouri? Join us as we dive into the wet and wild world of fish, from the giant blue catfish to the tiny pygmy sunfish!

## Missouri River Sunset Float

July 7 • Thursday • 6–9 PM

*Registration required* (adults)

The Missouri River will take your breath away at sunset! This is an eight mile float trip on the Missouri River from Platte Landing Park to Kaw Point Park. Please dress for the weather. Bring water and a good flashlight.

## Discover Nature Family Fishing

July 9 • Saturday • 9–11:30 AM

August 13 • Saturday • 9–11:30 AM

*Registration required* (families)

Summer is a great time to take your family fishing. We will teach some fishing basics, provide equipment and worms, and then your family will try their luck fishing. Kids who attend will be entered in a drawing for a new fishing pole and tackle box. Lessons 1 and 2 of the Discover Nature Fishing program are included in this class.

## Ladybug Survey

July 9 • Saturday • 1–2:30 PM

*No registration required* (all ages)

Learn about the citizen science program called Lost Ladybug Project at <http://www.lostladybug.org> and how to identify our native ladybugs. Then join us on the trails to search for our red and black spotted friends.

## Tracks on T-Shirts!

July 16 • Saturday • 1–2:30 PM

*Registration required* (all ages)

Sneak, slink and stroll to discover the basics of tracking animals on a short hike and bring a t-shirt to paint using realistic track stamps.

## Summer's Bounty

July 19 • Tuesday • 9–11 AM

*Registration required* (adults)

Wouldn't it be great if we could savor the bounty of summer throughout the year? In this hands-on program we will learn how to pickle and make delicious jellies from the native flowers of summer.

## Dragonfly Hunt

July 23 • Saturday • 10–11:30 AM

*Registration required* (families)

Get ready for an adventure, this is a hands-on experience! We will use special nets to capture dragonflies in different lifecycle phases in the pond and over the prairie.

## Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

July 30 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

August 27 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

*Walk-in* (ages 2+)

Join us for story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits.

## Visiting Vultures

July 30 • Saturday • 1–2:30 PM

*No registration required* (all ages)

Nature's cleanup crew can be intriguing and



disgusting at the same time. Come learn some fun facts about Missouri vultures then head out to the prairie for a chance at spotting them in the flesh.

## Family Creek Exploration

August 6 • Saturday • 10 AM–Noon

*Registration required beginning July 1*  
(families with children ages 5+)

Make today a stay-cation in Burr Oak Creek exploring for wildlife signs, fossils and splashing. Bring a lunch to continue the fun-filled afternoon. We will learn about our watershed and then we will head up the creek in knee-deep water.

## Ozark Trail Adventure Workshop

August 6 • Saturday • 10 AM–4 PM

*Registration required* (adults)

Discover The Ozark Trail for the first time or learn more about it during this free day-long workshop sponsored by the Ozark Trail Association (OTA). After learning about the trail's history, choose from exciting breakout sessions including: backpacking, cycling, horseback riding, map reading, trail building, large mammals (bears, mountain lions, and elk) and much more! Bring a sack lunch. To register and for details, please visit the OTA's website at <http://ozarktrail.com/events.php>. Program fliers are also available by calling the nature center at 816-228-3766.



## Missouri Hunter Education: Skills Session

August 13 · Saturday · Noon–4 PM

*Registration required* (ages 11+)

For more information and class availability visit <http://www.register-ed.com/programs/missouri>.

## Missouri River Full Moon Float

August 18 · Thursday · 8 PM–Midnight

*Registration required* (adults)

There is magic in the air as we experience the serene beauty of the Missouri River after dark. We will float from LaBenite Park to MDC's Cooley Lake Access. Please dress for the weather. Bring water and a good flashlight with extra batteries.

## Caterpillar Hunt

August 20 · Saturday · 10–11:30 AM or 1–2:30 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

Break out your magnifying glasses for some fun citizen science and help us survey the butterfly population of Burr Oak Woods! We will be tracking the number and variety of species at our site by looking for all stages of their life cycle, taking special note of the monarchs. Just drop by and join in the fun (create a life cycle craft while supplies last).

## Stream Team for Families

August 27 · Saturday · 12:30–3 PM

*Registration required* (

families with children ages 8+)

Have you ever wondered what the Missouri Stream Team is all about? Join us for a hands-on program sampling our own Burr Oak Creek. We will check the water chemistry, look for macroinvertebrates and explore the streambed and surrounding watershed. Make science fun in a wet and wild way!

## Tincture, Tonics and Medicinal Plants

August 27 · Saturday · 1–2:30 PM

*Registration required* (adults)

Have you ever wondered about the healing properties of Missouri's native plants? Join us as we share some of our knowledge and discover the difference between tinctures and tonics.

*You don't have to travel far away to discover nature.  
Go wild this summer exploring Burr Oak Woods.*

# Go Wild!



*Registration begins July 1.*

### 3–5 YEAR OLDS

#### Life in a Pond

July 6 · Wednesday · 9–11 AM

July 7 · Thursday · 9–11 AM

*Registration required* (ages 3–5)

Have you ever stopped to explore a pond? If you look close, you will find much more than just fish! Come ready to get wet and muddy. Nets and buckets provided.

#### Musical Nature

July 14 · Thursday · 9:30 AM–Noon

July 15 · Friday · 9:30 AM–Noon

*Registration required* (ages 3–5)

Clap, clang and chirp your way to discover the music of nature and some amazing animals! Enjoy simple sound experiments, a snack craft and make your own musical instrument to take home.

#### Tiny Things in Nature

July 21 · Thursday · 10 AM–Noon

July 28 · Thursday · 10 AM–Noon

*Registration required* (ages 3–5)

We are quick to recognize the larger things in nature, but what about the smaller things? Let's go explore with your little one in the garden, in a pond and even on the forest floor. This is something you'll want to keep doing in your own outdoor place.

### 6–8 YEAR OLDS

#### Cane Pole Fishin'

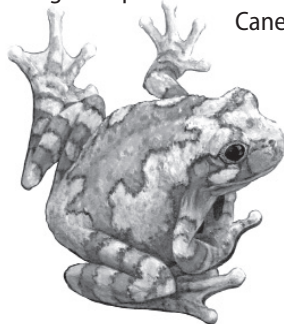
July 8 · Friday · 9–11 AM

July 22 · Friday · 9–11 AM

July 26 · Tuesday · 9–11 AM

*Registration required* (ages 6–8)

Get ready to feel the tug on your line! Join us for a fun and unique fishing experience using cane poles. No reels needed!



Cane fishing poles are primitive, but their simple design makes fishing easy and exciting for anglers of any age.

### Wild about Reptiles

July 12 · Tuesday · 9 AM–Noon

July 13 · Wednesday · 9 AM–Noon

*Registration required* (ages 6–8)

We are on the hunt for lizards, snakes and turtles! Join us as we lift rocks, roll logs and peek into cracks while learning more about our native Missouri reptiles.

### Creek Crawl

July 19 · Tuesday · 10:30 AM–1 PM

July 26 · Tuesday · 10:30 AM–1 PM

*Registration required* (ages 6–8)

Splash and learn your way up a creek. Kids will explore the water for signs of wildlife and discover why a creek is important.

### 9–11 YEAR OLDS

#### Fishing by Canoe

July 28 · Thursday · 9 AM–Noon

*Registration required* (ages 9–11)

Do you like to go fishing? How about canoeing? Have you ever tried both at the same time? Join us for an exciting adventure on the pond at Burr Oak Woods! We will paddle the pond in canoes, then get the fishing poles and try to land aunker in your boat.

#### Forest Geocaching

July 21 · Thursday · 9 AM–Noon

July 27 · Wednesday · 9 AM–Noon

*Registration required* (ages 9–11)

Have you ever heard of geocaching? It's a fun way to combine technology and nature while searching for treasure. Learn how to operate a GPS for our very own treasure hunt.

### 12–18 YEAR OLDS

#### Creek Trek

July 21 · Thursday · 9 AM–Noon

*Registration required* (ages 12–18)

It's time for a wet and wild adventure in Burr Oak Creek! We will leave from the Bethany Falls parking lot to explore the forest by following the stream along its course. And we will find out who lives in the creek by sampling for fish and aquatic macroinvertebrates.



# Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

28505 E. Truman Road, Landahl Park, Buckner, MO 64016 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/282](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/282)



Located on 60 acres of forests and fields near Blue Springs, Missouri, six miles north of I-70 on MO 7 and two miles east of MO 7 on Truman Road in Landahl Park. Facilities include an outdoor education center, archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

## HOURS:

### May 1–September 15

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–6 PM

### September 16–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Monday and Tuesday  
and all state holidays.

**FACILITIES AND FEES:** Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/Pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Trap/Skeet: \$3 per round
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour
- Shotgun pattern: \$3 per person per hour

## TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-249-3194 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

## Basic Pistol...PLUS

July 2 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM

*Registration required* (ages 18+)

This course continues where the Basic Handgun course ends. The topics of discussion include purchasing and owning a firearm, ammunition facts, cleaning and storage of your firearm. We also will work on your marksmanship skills on the range. Class includes range time.

## Teens & Firearms – Shotguns

July 7 · Thursday · 6–8 PM

*Registration required* (ages 11–17)

This course is for designed for teens who would like to explore the safe usage of firearms. Topics covered will include safety, parts of a shotgun, marksmanship and much more. Continue to participate in the Teens & Firearms classes every month to have fun and improve your skills with guidance and coaching offered by MDC's Lake City staff. This class includes range time.

## Introduction to Skeet Shooting

July 9 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM

*Registration required* (ages 12+)

Are you a trap shooter who wants an exciting and quicker target game? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on all types of winged game. You may even pick up a new sport.

## A Day at the Range

July 16 · Saturday · Noon–6 PM

*Walk-ins* (all ages)

The Lake City Shooting Range is happy to open our doors to the public with a free day of shooting! Everyone is welcome! Come try your skill on one of our trap/skeet fields, archery or on either firing ranges sight in your rifles and pistols.

## Beginning Archery

August 6 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM

*Registration required*, beginning July 15 (ages 12–17)

Archery has become a very popular sport among the public, whether for hunting or the MoNASP program in school districts. Learn more about the fundamentals of shooting archery such as proper stance, draw technique, equipment and follow through.

## Basic Pistol

August 7 · Sunday · 8–11:30 AM

*Registration required* (ages 18+)

This is a novice class for people who have little or no experience in handling and shooting a handgun. Topics that will be covered include safety in the home, types of handguns, different parts of the handgun, the variety of calibers, ammunition and marksmanship. Class includes range time.

## Teens & Firearms – Archery

August 11 · Thursday · 6–8 PM

*Registration required* (ages 11–17)

This course is for designed for teens who would like to explore the safe usage of archery. Topics covered will include safety, parts of a bow, marksmanship and much more. Continue to participate in the Teens



& Firearms classes every month to have fun and improve your skills with guidance and coaching offered by the Lake City staff. This class includes range time.

## Women's Firearm Safety – Phase I

August 20 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM

*Registration required* (women ages 18+)

Thinking about introducing a firearm into your home? This course is designed specifically for women who are interested in gaining knowledge about firearms. Topics discussed include introducing a firearm into the home, basic marksmanship and laws regarding ownership of firearms.

## Women on the Range: An Unmatched Experience

September 10 · Saturday · 8 AM – 4 PM

*Registration required* (women ages 18+)

The Women on the Range program is a safe and fun way for women to enjoy a day of shooting in a friendly, safe environment. This all-day event will cover everything from rifles and pistols to shotguns and archery. It is a great way to introduce you and others to the sport of shooting and to the different shooting disciplines offered. The one-on-one coaching offered by the friendly Lake City staff will give you the support needed to obtain the skills of a basic shooter and give you a better understanding of what the shooting sports and hunting can offer you.

# Finding Fish

Summer is a busy time, but time need not be a hindrance in good fishing for your family. A simple approach makes scouting for fishing spots and getting the essential gear together easy.

Many small community lakes and ponds are stocked with fish to provide anglers with a quality experience. Small streams can also be fishable in the KC metro area. Parks or Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) areas often provide access to fishable waters. MDC's free download, the Find MO Fish app for digital devices, is a handy way to find public fishing areas. You'll also find fishing reports, fish ID info and more on the app.

Next step, assemble your gear. Local lakes usually have largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, hybrid sunfish and channel catfish. They can all be caught using basic tackle and fishing techniques. I recommend a light- or medium-action fishing rod with a reel holding 8- or 10-pound test line. Good fishing combos can often be found at garage sales for just a couple of bucks.

A few MDC offices, state park offices and even some local libraries have equipment you can borrow. A complete list can be found at <http://on.mo.gov/1f4bgXO>.

A small tackle box is handy. You'll want size-6 baitholder hooks, a few bobbers and some split shot weights. Add needle-nose pliers, fingernail clippers to cut line and a stringer or basket to bring fish home for dinner. Baits are worms, minnows, grasshoppers or crickets. You can buy these, but it can be fun to catch your own bait.

The final steps are grabbing your license, gear, and bait and head out to your local fishing hole. You'll find most fish near cover. Look for rocks, trees and plants that shelter fish. Cast your bait near and wait for a bite. If you don't get a bite after a few minutes, reel the bait in and try another spot. For more info on learning to fish, visit an MDC office or check online resources at <http://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/fishing/get-started-fishing>.

— Nathan Woodland

## Intermediate Archery

July 8 · Friday · 5:30–8:30 PM

*Registration required* (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

You've probably heard that practice makes perfect. Though there's truth to that, it's also true that practicing bad habits can perfect them as well. Bring your equipment to this class and get some feedback on your archery skills that will make a difference in your shooting.

## Rifle Shooting for the Hunter

July 10 · Sunday · 4–8 PM

*Registration required* (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Misses sometimes happen to all hunters. There are lessons that can be learned from each to try to keep them from being repeated. This class is designed for hunters that have successfully completed a hunter education course and would like to learn better ways to practice and shoot. Skills covered will include shooting fundamentals, sighting-in procedures, shoot/don't shoot scenarios, shot placement and plenty of shooting from the various positions one might find in the field.

## .22 Plinking Class

July 21 · Thursday · 6–8 PM

*Registration required* (ages 8+; ages 8–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

The .22 long rifle cartridge is one of the oldest still in existence today. One of the many reasons it has survived is because it is so cheap and fun to shoot. Join our staff of certified and trained instructors as we have some good old plinking fun shooting many different types of reactive targets in a safe and controlled environment. This is not an introductory course; participants should have a solid understanding of firearms safety and be able to apply the basic principles appropriately.

## Tracking Wounded Game

August 17 · Wednesday · 6–8 PM

*Registration required* (all ages)

Part of being a responsible hunter is making every possible effort to recover your game. Most hunters can improve their tracking skills with some basic knowledge and a bit of practice. Join our experienced staff to improve your recovery skills.



Located in Platte County, Missouri. Go west of downtown Parkville on Route FF to River Road, then west 3 miles to the entrance located just west of I-435. Facilities are available for individual or group use and include a rifle/pistol/shotgun range, and archery range.

### HOURS:

**May 1–September 30**

Monday and Tuesday: 2 PM–8 PM

Friday–Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM

**October 1–April 30**

Friday–Tuesday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Wednesday and Thursday and all state holidays.

### FACILITIES AND FEES:

- Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun/Range: \$3 booth per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-891-9941 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

## Dove Hunting Clinic

August 24–26 · Wednesday–Friday · 6–9 PM

*Registration required* (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Hunting doves is a great way to spend time in nature. Actually bagging a few doves is the challenging part. This three-part clinic is designed to work through some of the common barriers to dove hunting success.



There will be a fair amount of shooting in this workshop so feel free to bring your own shotgun or use ours.

# Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/281](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/281)



Located in Kansas City, Missouri, just east of the Plaza near 47th and Troost. Six hands-on workshops explore Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife with a Lewis and Clark theme. Discovery Center is a showcase for environmental architecture with four acres of native landscaping. Buy books and hunting/fishing permits at the gift shop.

## **HOURS:**

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM  
1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 8 AM–7 PM  
1st and 3rd Saturdays: 9 AM–4 PM  
Closed all state holidays.

## **TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:**

Programs are free. Call 816-759-7300 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

## **Nature Nuts Storytime**

July 2 · Saturday · 10–11 AM, 11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

July 16 · Saturday · 10–11 AM, 11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

*Walk-in* (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

## **Camping and Outdoor Cooking**

July 2 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

*Walk-In* (all ages)

Summer is here and it is a great time to go camping! Join us as we set up camp, play some camp games and do some camp cooking. Learn how to choose a camp site, pitch a tent, build a fire and make your camp "Bear Proof." We'll have fun games for the whole family and do some camp cooking using methods that will make your camp meals easy and delicious.

## **Adult Summer Camp: Atlatl**

July 5 · Tuesday · 6:30–8 PM

*Walk-in* (adults)

Discover the fun in learning to use a dart thrower, the atlatl! Test your skills as you attempt to hit the target using this early Native American hunting tool. Today people enjoy using atlatls for sport. They throw to test distance or accuracy. Some primitive skills enthusiasts also use them for hunting deer and small game. Are you ready to meet the challenge on your next outdoor adventure?

## **Atlatl, Connecting With the Past**

July 16 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

*Walk in* (ages 8+)

Are you looking for a way to connect with the past and find a challenging new sport in today's modern world? Bring the kids and learn the history of the atlatl, an early Native American hunting tool. Test your skills as you attempt to hit the target using this unique dart thrower. Prepare to meet the challenge!

## **Adult Summer Camp: Frogging**

July 19 · Tuesday · 7–11 PM

*Registration required* (adults)

Get your feet wet as you learn to use a frog gig, frog grabber, dip net and fishing pole to catch bullfrogs and green frogs. This hands-on program will help you learn techniques for catching frogs with fishing equipment during the day and how to spot, stalk and gig frogs after dark. Participants will catch and gig frogs and learn how to clean them to



make delicious frog leg dishes.

Participants should bring a flashlight and wear old shoes that they don't mind getting wet and muddy.

## **Summer in the City**

July 29 · Friday · 6–9 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

Summer Camp isn't just for the kids, tonight it's for the whole family! Spend the evening participating in all the fun activities a day at summer camp would offer. Kids of all ages and adults will enjoy archery, fire starting, nature art, atlatl, camp games and many more activities. Come enjoy a warm evening outdoors to wrap up and celebrate a fun summer!

## **Adult Summer Camp: Mighty MO by Boat**

August 2 · Tuesday · 5:30–8 PM

*Registration required beginning July 5* (adults)

Step aboard the MDC river boat for an evening of exploration on the Missouri River. Your journey will be via motor boat and will give you an opportunity to experience the river in ways many people don't get. View wildlife, learn how the river has changed over time and discover other features of the Missouri River. More information will be shared with those who plan to attend.

## **Nature Nuts Storytime**

August 6 · Saturday · 10–11 AM,

11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

August 20 · Saturday · 10–11 AM,

11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

*Walk-in* (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

## **Fishing Fun**

August 6 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

Fishing is a fun way to enjoy the outdoors. The whole family can join in and you don't have to travel far to find a good fishing hole. Come brush up on your fishing basics: play our casting game and learn about the fish you would most likely catch nearby. Then create a piece of fish art to take home with you.

## **Fly Tying**

August 6 · Saturday · 10 AM, 11 AM or 1 PM

*Walk-in* (ages 10+)

Fly tying is an art and there's nothing quite like catching a fish with a fly you created. Fly tying workshops will begin at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Twelve participants per workshop will be allowed and they will fill on a first come, first serve basis.

## **Field to Fork: Catfish and Rough Fish**

August 16 · Tuesday · 6:30 PM–8:30 PM

*Registration required beginning July 19* (adults)

Flathead catfish, channel catfish, blue catfish, gar, carp, buffalo, Asian carp and drum; these fish may not be beautiful, but they can be delicious! We'll start our Field to Fork Series learning special ways



## Connect to the past with the ancient atlatl

**M**any people believe that hunting weapons moved from spears to the bow and arrow. However, there is a lesser-known weapon called an atlatl (pronounced at-latal or atal-atal) that was used prior to the bow and arrow. History suggests that North American hunters used the atlatl to hunt bison, elk, and deer. They may have even used atlatl darts to cause the extinction of woolly mammoth and mastodons!

Modern atlatl darts look like an oversized arrow. Typically the darts are five- to seven-feet long and about a half-inch in diameter. The atlatl throwing stick is about two feet long with varied designs. The front end is a handle and the rear end has a projection that acts as a knock or rest. The projection actually “pushes” the dart forward.

It is easy to learn to throw an atlatl but takes skill to master accuracy. Target competitions such as those promoted through the World Atlatl Association are growing in popularity. Hunters are also using the atlatl for wild game hunting. In 2010, Missouri began allowing hunters to use atlatl



to pursue wild game. It is currently legal to hunt turkey, fish and deer with an atlatl in Missouri.

Are you looking for a way to connect with the past and find a challenging new sport in today's modern world? Join us at the Discovery Center on July 5 or July 16 for our atlatl workshops where you can learn more about this fascinating hunting tool and test your skills throwing an atlatl

— Susan Harris  
Education Specialist

to clean these unique fish. Then Chef Brett Atkinson of “Wilma’s Real Good Food” and Chef Carlos Falcon of “Jarocho Pescados y Mariscos” will teach us how to turn them into tasty dishes. A \$20.00 per person refundable deposit is required to hold your spot.

### Adult Summer Camp: Mighty MO by Boat

August 16 • Tuesday • 5:30 PM–8 PM  
*Registration required beginning July 19* (adults) Step aboard the MDC river boat for an evening of exploration on the Missouri River. Your journey will be via motor boat and will give you an opportunity to experience the river in ways many people

don’t get. View wildlife, learn how the river has changed over time, and discover other features of the Missouri River. More information will be shared with those who plan to attend.

### Fins to Fashion

August 20 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM  
*Walk-in* (all ages)  
Developed in Japan as a method for fisherman to record their catch, gyotaku or “fish printing” is an ancient art form still practiced today. We’ll use molded fish and textile inks to create beautiful wearable works of art of Missouri fishes. T-shirts provided or bring one of your own.

## Thank You!

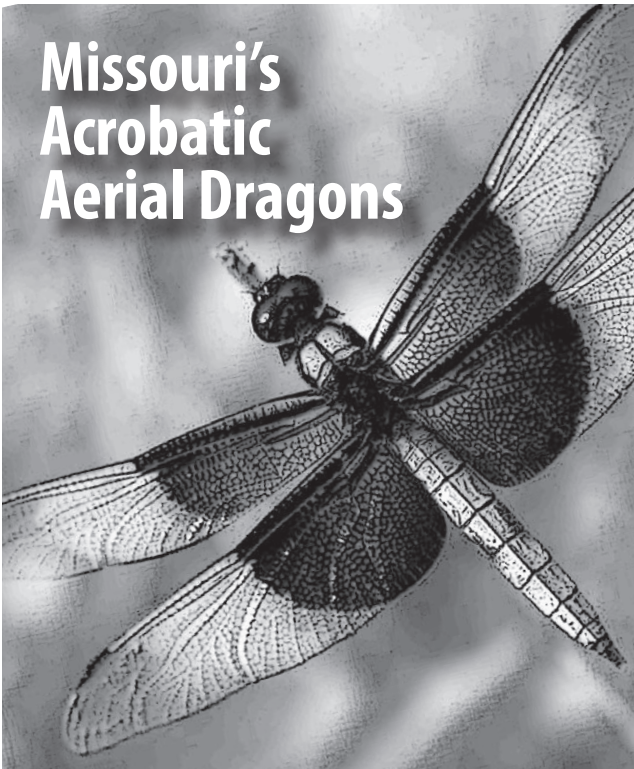
**T**he Discovery Center would like to extend a special thank you to Wanda Schrock. Wanda recently donated two large beaver pelts to the Discovery Center in memory of her late husband Richard W. Roberts who was an avid outdoorsman. The beaver pelts are a nice addition and will be used to help children and adults learn about Missouri furbearers.



## Special Event in July: Summer in the City

**S**ummer camp is the highlight of summer for many. With summer winding down, we have one last chance for families to enjoy summer camp games and activities together at the Discovery Center. On Friday, July 29 from 6 to 9 p.m., we are hosting an evening of camp games and activities like archery, fire starting and nature art. Come decorate a bandana and then walk station to station enjoying each of the activities. It will be an exciting, free and special event for the entire family.

## Missouri's Acrobatic Aerial Dragons



repeatedly for one to four years depending on the species. When they are ready, they will emerge from the water and molt one more time, transforming into the adult you see flying around.

Adult dragonflies will only live for a few months. They prey on other insects and find a mate so they can lay eggs in the water to begin the next generation of “pond hawks”.

I was sitting by the pond, trying to catch some fish when a large insect landed at the end of my fishing pole. Welcome the dragonfly. They are fun to watch with interesting colors and patterns. They also eat lots of other insects like mosquitoes (yay!).

Dragonfly life cycles are really cool, too. They start as eggs laid in the water on or near some plants. When the eggs hatch the baby dragonflies, called nymphs, look nothing like the multi-winged adult on my fishing pole. When the eggs hatch, the young nymphs develop thick bodies with no wings. But they do have a mouth that extends out on a hinge to catch food.

Dragonfly nymphs are serious predators in the water. They eat lots of other insects, tadpoles, small fish and even other dragonfly nymphs. They will live in the water, grow and molt

The common whitetail dragonfly is a species often seen in the Kansas City area. They are easy to spot as the male has a white abdomen (hence the name) and a large dark bar in the center of each of their four wings. The females have similar wings but their abdomen is brown instead of white. They are fun to watch when you are at a pond because the males will fly quickly around to defend their territory from other whitetails. The adults are predators, eating soft-bodied insects like mosquitoes and flies.

Whitetail dragonfly nymphs grow and molt about 13 times during one year in the water. In their second spring, they will crawl out of the water, molt into an adult and seek a mate. The females will lay close to 1,000 eggs during that time.

But the predators are also prey. Eggs, nymphs and adults are eaten by other creatures in the cycle of life. Yet those that reach adulthood provide a colorful, acrobatic aerial spectacle, in mid-flight or while making a landing on the tip of a fishing pole.

— Philip Brinkley  
Burr Oak Woods Naturalist

## Missouri State Fair

Hey friends, step right up, we've got live fish, snakes and turtles to show you. When Missouri State Fair time arrives Aug. 11–21 in Sedalia, you'll find MDC staff on hand to present critters, conservation publications and crafts for the kids. And with summer heat traditional fare at the fair, be advised that MDC's Conservation Kids' Discovery Room is air conditioned.

The Burr Oak Woods and Discovery Center staffs are hosts some days for hands-on nature activities for families to enjoy. The Discovery Room, open from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., is adjacent to MDC's open pavilion with the giant aquarium and other exhibits, open from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

## Field to Fork offers hands-on opportunity to prepare wild game

Getting close to your food is the best way to appreciate a very good meal. Join Discovery Center for our five month, evening series of “Field to Fork” where you get up close and personal with expert tips on how to clean and cook fish and wild game.

MDC staff will demonstrate how to clean fish, small and large game, and waterfowl. Participants will get a hands-on opportunity to prepare game for cooking. Once our game is cleaned, we will turn the best parts over to some of Kansas City's top chefs from area restaurants and food trucks. The chefs will show us their favorite ways to prepare these wild meats and share their recipes as well. Small plate samples will be available for everyone to taste as we celebrate the bounty of our wild harvests.

Due to limited seating for these classes, there is a refundable deposit of \$20 per person, per class session to hold your spot. Your deposit will be returned when you attend your session or you may choose to donate it to the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation.

**August 16** – Catfish and Rough Fish  
**September 20** – Panfish and Squirrel  
**October 18** – Canada Goose /Wild Turkey  
**November 15** – Deer  
**December 20** – Waterfowl

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

*All facilities will be closed  
for these state holidays:  
Independence Day, July 4*